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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

June 19, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As you evaluate applications for the Sec. 5339 “Buses and Bus Facilities” program I would like to draw your attention to the Western Reserve Transit Authority’s (WRTA) application to rehabilitate, replace, and expand its core maintenance, bus storage, and support facilities.

WRTA provides bus services throughout Mahoning County and is an essential mode of transportation for all members of the community. The requested grant would allow WRTA to bring its maintenance repair bays up to date, replace its bus storage barn, acquire land and build additional parking for buses, and add roofing to bus parking stalls to improve passenger access at its main transfer point.

Last year, I was pleased to support WRTA and its partners for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant that will transform greater downtown Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley region. WRTA is leading the implementation of key elements of that project: transit-related street improvements, improving transit circulator service and deploying innovative autonomous service. In addition, WRTA has updated its funding plan to improve mobility for senior citizens, veterans, disabled citizens, and citizens of low-income backgrounds.

With these efforts in mind, WRTA needs modern maintenance, bus storage, and support facilities. I strongly support WRTA’s efforts to update and expand their facilities, and FTA’s assistance under the “Buses and Bus Facilities” program would go far in supporting the proposed projects.

I strongly urge you to give the application of the Western Reserve Transit Authority’s for the FTA’s Bus and Bus Facilities full and fair consideration. Please keep my office informed on the status of this application.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member